



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release TO PMs ~~CF~~ TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1944.

Because the soothing effects of fishing are contributing to the healing of convalescent soldiers, sailors and marines by relieving nervous tension, the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior has embarked on a program of supplying game fish to stock waters in areas under the control of the Veterans' Administration and the War and Navy Departments.

During the first 11 months of 1944, a total of 385,820 game fish of nine different varieties were stocked in suitable waters in 20 states located near Veterans' Hospitals and military areas.

Such anglers' favorites as rainbow, brook and Loch Leven trout, largemouth and smallmouth black bass, bluegill sunfish, red-eared sunfish, catfish and crappies were used for stocking purposes. Some of these fish, particularly the trout, were large enough for the convalescent servicemen to take immediately.

The conservation departments of the states in which the hospitals are located are cooperating with the Government agencies in this activity.

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